BULLETIN from

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service & 38 Bank Street

VOL. XIII October 1, 1945 No. 19

FALL JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT: No. 18

PART II

FOR THE PICTURE BOOK AGE

Gabriel's — BABY'S THINGS — Samuel Gabriel $~~.75~~ 1.35

Sturdy board and almost indestructible spiral binding for a big, colorful first picture book of the everyday things in baby's life. Orange juice and porridge vie with pails and duck toys- and a good many of the toys pictured are standard commercial toys that practically every baby today owns. Strong merchandise appeal.(Publ.)

Gabriel's — YOUNG THINGS — Samuel Gabriel $~~.75~~ 1.35

Children like to pick out animals they know and this conforms to first recognition level and first words in selection of baby animals. The quality of the illustrations is more or less stereotyped, but there's lots of color, and again the strong format, heavy board, spiral ring binding, lots of color. Dependable merchandise.(Publ.)

Rice, Ethel M. — THE NICEST PLACE — Samuel Gabriel $.75

In pictures chiefly- the story of the cuddly kitten and the pedigreed pup who set out to find the nicest place to live, and of course eventually come back home to the place they started from. Friendly (though uninspired) illustrations and a comfortable story for very first listeners. Pictures by Albert Kay. (Publ.)

Tornquist, Faye — STACKS OF QUACKS — Samuel Gabriel $.75

Forced little story of a little duck with an annoying habit of quacking too much. How he found a toy man who wanted all his quacks and returned home without them to his cold-hearted parents. Rather looming pictures with garish colors. Boards.(Publ.)

GRADUATING TO PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Stratton, Stephen — THR ABC PLAY BOOK — L.B. Fischer $1.50

An ABC book for the constant number of parents, uncles and aunts - and the decreasing number of people trained in teaching who discourage giving pre-school children the alphabet. Attractive, colorful, slick advertising type of plates with appealing end papers make this somewhat overcrowded book qualify as fair merchandise.(Publ.)

Steiner, Charlotte — FIND US AT THE CHILDREN'S FAIR! — Harper $1.00

Toy book in pull-out form with ostentatiously naive pictures and a story in such small type that adults will have to read it to children, even those who ordinarily like to identify words and letters. There's a guessing game at the end- the problem how to find all the children in the big fair panorama. The children are scattered through familiar amusements, side-shows, merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, lemonade stand, and so on. Pictures in 3-colors and black. Paper too lightweight. (Publ.)

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Harris, Laura THE ANIMATED NOAH'S ARK Grosset & Dunlap $1.00

Julian Wehr "animations" are not particularly imaginative and the illustrations throughout seem lacking in unity of style and color. These animated books, however, have good merchandise appeal, and sell in toy as well as book departments. (Publ.)

Maloy, Lois TOBY CAN FLY Grosset & Dunlap $.50

A silly sort of book with attractive pictures and lots of color, so that purchasers will be easily misled into finding it appealing. Actually, the pictures are rather misleading, and the point of the book far-fetched, if not falacious, for Toby successively finds that various creatures can do a lot of things better than he can until a plane of his own makes it possible for him to fly. Now really....(Publ.)

Wehr, Julian-*Illus.* ANIMATED PICTURE BOOK OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND Grosset & Dunlap $1.00

Retellings of *Alice* find me prejudiced against them to start with, so it is not surprising that this toy book built around a spotty revamping of Alice's adventures seemed particularly inept. At times, Wehr, in pictures and animations, retains the flavor of the old timers by Tenniel; others are figments of his own imagination. Full-page, full color- often seeming oddly out of scale for the story. (Incidentally, toy book age is too young for Alice.) (Publ.)

Victor, Jeffrey THE TRAIN BOOK Madison (2 E. 23rd St. NYC) $1.00

Train format will catch the eye of small- yes, even very small, boys, and enough of the pages are sturdy heavy board to make it fairly substantial. Bright reds and greens, a clear detailed bit of running text accompanying each picture succeeds in giving a simple first matter-of-fact book about trains and engine No. 9. (Publ.)

CLASSICS** REPRINTS** INEXPENSIVE JUVENILES

Weihs. Erika- *Illus.* THE ROLLING PANCAKE L.B. Fischer $1.00

Bold and distinctively colored pictures illustrate four very young classic fairy tales,-The Rolling Pancake, The Little Red Hen, The Pot That Made Porridge, The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Easily scared children may find some of the trolls a bit nightmarish- but there aren't many normal children who mind them. (Publ.)

Hart, Dick-*Illus.* FAIRY TALES *from Hans Christian Andersen* L.B. Fischer $1.00

Three good beginning Andersen stories retold for small children, The Real Princess, The Little Tin Soldier and Thumbelina. Softly colored, pleasant pictures, and good black and whites make this dependable merchandise for those who want to start four and five year olds on fairy tale favorites. (Publ.)

Andersen, Hans Christian THE UGLY DUCKLING Grosset & Dunlap $.50

* Rojankovsky illustrations for the well-loved story of the duckling who turned out to be a swan. No retelling here- the text is the standard Andersen translation. And the illustrations are imaginative, gay, with obvious but authentic detail and interesting composition. Definitely a cut above general merchandise level. Good value. (Publ.)

Wehr, Julian-*illus.* THE JULIAN WEHR MOTHER GOOSE Grosset & Dunlap $1.00

Generous helping of Mother Goose - old and standard favorites and a number that aren't so hackneyed along with 230 two-color illustrations - about two to a page- and 16 full pages in full color. Imaginative- fresh reissue of a favorite edition. (Publ.)

Crosby, Carroll RONNIE AND THE WISE OLD OWL Random House $.50

It is news when a house of the standards of R.H. issues colored juveniles at this price. It would be better news if they were more distinguished in content- for the format looks a lot for the money. This one is a goody-goody story of a boy who wanted to get to the circus, and who earned his ticket by reciting a long list of animal names in school. Helped by Hooter, the wise old owl, Ronnie memorizes a long, disconnected list - a pointless performance as I see it. The illustrations, by Marguerite Mayer, are stereotyped- reproduced in color and black and white. Board. (Publ.)

Hornby, George THE CITY DOG AND THE COUNTRY CAT Random House $.50

A more solid story, this, of Rusty, a spaniel who went to the country with his human family and found it a terrifying experience. Bullied by the country cat, he eventually proves himself when he rescues his tormentor from the water. Colorful pictures by Carol Yeakey- full color and black and white. Too bad the spaniel doesn't look more convincingly like a spaniel. (Publ.)

BOOKS TO READ ALOUD (6-9)

Colman, Margery & Karroff, K.K. de STIGGLES Coward, McCann $1.00

An engaging story that six and seven year olds will enjoy read aloud- and that third and fourth graders can read to themselves. A pet donkey, beloved by the children who own him, is taken into the house and taught the elements of living in a house. Stiggles copes with problems of going to bed, cleaning up breakfast at the table and the intricacies of human living. But he misses his poor sister Mabel and the children search all of London to find her. Pre-war London may prove somewhat confusing to American children, but the book has distinct charm and engaging illustrations in sepia and red by Margery Colman. Board.

Hamilton, Elizabeth THE P-ZOO Coward, McCann $1.00

* A delightful and original story of an erratic animal lover who housed only those creatures whose names begin with P. He needed a helper but even there he applied the P rule. A gay end is provided when Peter Paul, a Person, and Patricia, a Pachaderm, gain entrance. A very different sort of story picture book, with Peter Hurd's drawings and Flavia Gag's hand lettering. A nice book on all counts. Beginning readers will like to spell it out and there's a word game angle. And younger children will like the nonsense read aloud. Colored jacket and paper on board binding; drawings in blue line. (Publ.)

Leaf, Munro LET'S DO BETTER Lippincott $1.50

Only Munro Leaf could get away with this kind of moralizing on the course of the history of War and Peace, and he manages to get his ideas across to the children, without sugarcoating the pill. Amusing, lively cartoons, in his particular style, make this a good companion piece- with a broader significance- for *Manners Are Fun*, etc. Black and white with a splash of red. Humor and a barb of not always palatable truth. (10/3)

FIRST STEPS IN READING- Story Books

Flory, Jane THE WIDE-AWAKE ANGEL Grosset & Dunlap $.50

Whimsical tale of the little angel who left heaven to find someone to play with her when she should have been asleep. All she found were sleepy-head children and animals, until she too fell asleep to the lullaby of a mother who put her on a fleecy cloud and sent her back to heaven. Muted color in pictures enhances the dreamy tone. (Publ.)

Lawrence, Mildred SUSAN'S BEARS Grosset & Dunlap $.50

This has a double function, for it is (a) an entertaining story of a little girl who was afraid of bears outside her room at night, until she began to get notes from them and they eventually came to live with her as four toy bears; (b) a kindly plan to overcome childhood fears. Attractive illustrations. (This book might be double listed for reading aloud to younger children.) (Publ.)

FIRST STEPS IN READING- Fact Books

Spiegel, Doris DANNY AND COMPANY 92 Coward, McCann $1.00

Thinly fictionized fact book about the function of the fire department, which should prove popular with small boys who are fascinated by anything to do with the fire house and its gang. Danny watches the men he admires after he has turned in the alarm, and Jo-Jo, an unusual parrot, plays a lively role in the little story. But the emphasis is on the factual aspects simply explained, and competently illustrated in red and blue drawings by the author. (Publ.)

STORY BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12's

Fishel, Dick & Smith, Red TERRY AND BUNKY PLAY FOOTBALL Putnam $1.50

* A very successful first book on football - the hows and whys done in terms of a credible story of two kids, friends, who learn the fundamentals from the High School team star player who wants them to start off the right way. He gives his young nephew a football as a present; he teaches the little boys the right way to hold the ball, to throw, to catch, to block, to kick. And he explains very clearly the basic principles of the game, what it means to make a down, how to score, etc. Small boys will find it a practical how-to-play book, and will find that the game means more to watch. (And perhaps some adults will learn something from it, too.) Line action drawings by L.D. Warren are factually accurate. (Publ.)

Hogner, Dorothy Childs UNEXPECTED JOURNEY Creative Age $2.50

Topper, a stray airedale with lots of personality, strays into a Dogs for Defense station and makes a place for himself by his almost human attributes. His adventures are sympathetically depicted (with occasional sentiment laid on too thick- but that seems almost an inevitable part of dog stories)- and it is a new angle on a background that has been overworked. Nils Hogner illustrations in black and white enliven the text. Excellent format. (Oct.)

Carmer, Carl WILDCAT FURS TO CHINA Knopf $2.00

There is a distinctive feeling for American tradition and indigenous cultures which marks this- his first juvenile- as definitely Carl Carmer. It is the story of two boys who go as deck hands on the sloop *Experiment*, the first single-sticker to make the voyage from New York to Canton. Clear, colorful pictures and black and whites by Elizabeth Carmer. Good type face makes this a possible second or third grade reader, so that the age level brackets this group and the younger one. 76 pp. Cloth. (Publ.)

Pollock, Katherine SIR TOBY AND THE MURRAYS Scribner $1.75

* A delightfully human family story of twins, Jo and Andy, and their 9-year old sister, Bitsy. The father is a fun-loving, sailing, punning minister and the mother is very understanding. Bitsy, the nuisance, suffers a bit as the outsider in a closed corporation, but she and her bright, stubborn little donkey, Sir Toby, ultimately win their place as they contribute to the earning of money for the new boat. Sound values- good boating data- present day background. Illustrated by Sari. (Oct.)

Weston, Christine BHIMSA, THE DANCING BEAR Scribner $2.00

A gay adventure story of two Indian boys (East India) and a wonderful dancing bear of extraordinary intelligence. The sun shines on scenes of more than oriental splendor and wicked spoiled Princes lord it over servile subjects. A bit out of this world atmosphere and occasionally moralizing - but in all a satisfactory adventure story of two boys who leave their homes and have lots of adventure. The Roger Duvois in pictures in two colors are sure passport to charm. (Oct.)

FACT BOOKS FOR THE 9 TO 12's

Maurois, Andre EISENHOWER: *The Liberator* Didier - French $2.00 English $1.50

Maurois seems an odd choice as biographer for Eisenhower until we realize that this is simply an English edition of a book published also in French- and we hope the French edition is designed for French children. It is a brief biography, routine material, undistinguished in style and content (Maurois does not quite get the right approach for juvenile biography - as witness his *Franklin*)- and he tends to make the general a ponderously noble character rather than the genial human being he is. Brief handling of boyhood and early military career; somewhat greater detail on later military operations in Africa, Italy and France; compact handling of invasion strategy its best aspect. Large clear type makes it look younger than it is. (10/1)

DeWitt, Cornelius & McNeer, May THE STORY OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS Harper $1.50

Once the hurdle has been taken and these books identified for an older age level than their picture book format would indicate, they form an exciting series of regional books, of interest from ten years on up. The DeWitt lithographs are stunning- colorful, imaginative, well reproduced. Clear, concise text in almost travelogue style, tells history of the region from Indian days to today, geography, inhabitants, activities, customs. Attractive both as merchandise and background material. (~~10/17~~) 11/7

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS- Fiction

Jacobs, Helen Hull LAUREL FOR JUDY Dodd, Mead $2.00

Out of her own sports background Helen Jacobs writes feelingly of the personal costs involved in laurel-getting, as Judy Martin determines to become a tennis champion even if it means sacrifice of dates, parties and fun. Instead she accepts a rigid regime of practice, training, matches, hard work and sportsmanship before she wins the National Junior Championship. Special interest for tennis fans- but with enough basic sports interest and adequate sprinkling of romance for all girls. (Publ.)

Davis, Robert GID GRANGER Holiday House $2.00

* Lively story of how a young American boy on a Vermont farm takes over the big job of running the farm when his older brother goes to war. A hard-working 4-H group pitch in to make their community into a better place- rugged individualists learn to pull together in the national emergency- and human warmth lends understanding as foreigners and outsiders and intruders become contributing, useful citizens. Pictures by Charles Bank Wilson. Nov. J.L.G. (10/1)

Kjelgaard, Jim BIG RED Holiday House $2.00

Pedigreed dogs, wily killer bears, trackless snowstorms, fox traps and so on- gaudy with action-packed black and white pictures by Bob Kuhn, points to a not over-critical 12-15 audience. Simple enough dog-bites-bear theme, on which is superimposed a station wagon set, country club activities, kennel club which shifts the audience again to dog-fanciers in the upper income brackets. (10/1)

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS-Non-fiction

Smith, Cleveland H. & Taylor, Gertrude A. FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS Crowell $2.00

This should prove interesting material to history-minded, young people - and valuable reference material for school and public libraries. The flags of each sovereign country in full color, with accompanying lucid text telling the circumstances and historical incidents which resulted in the particular symbol being chosen as the flag. What the colors and the design signify; what terminology has developed in relation to flags in general; and a good many items of interest concerning the history of tiniest principalities. Along with the usual flags, there is included the brave new flag of the United Nations. (11/13)

Criss, Mildred DOM PEDRO OF BRAZIL Dodd, Mead $2.50

Here is the second biography of this juvenile season dealing with Dom Pedro. This one meets the needs of younger readers than the other (American Emperor-P.340) An uncomplicated story of this interesting figure who gained a reputation for warmth, and a spirit of democracy. Called the People's Emperor and the Yankee Emperor, he built for himself a career that was of dramatic interest as well as historical importance, and the author makes the most of both. Competent biography - simple, direct style, successful picturing of family relationships and human side of a great man. (Publ.) (Originally reported for Spring publication)

BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - Fiction

Hazlett, Com. Edward E. RIG FOR DEPTH CHARGES! Dodd, Mead $2.00

* A vigorous and absorbing career book about our submarine service. Rodney - nicknamed "Saint", young Lieutenant on the *Arizona*, sees his adored ship sunk during the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. He puts in a request for submarine duty as the quickest opportunity for revenge, and is assigned to the base at New London for training. Then active service - as convoy duty is followed by action off Guadalcanal, where Rodney's bravery and skill in repairing a shell hole while the submarine is submerged saves the ship and the crew and earns him his Silver Star. A good deal of technical detail, simple, incisive plot, pleasant romantic trimmings. (Publ.)

Litten, Frederick Nelson RENDEZVOUS ON MINDANAO Dodd, Mead $2.00

Another in Mr. Litten's riproaring adventure series, with aviation to the fore. John Grayson, planter in the Philippines, and his two sons are caught up in pre-Pearl Harbor Jap intrigue. Plenty of jungle-stalking, shooting, flying, make for too-coincidental and complicated a plot. The attempt to point a moral is lost in the blood and thunder. Bangup stuff nonetheless - the sort of book that youngsters will find adequate interest holders stacked against the omnipresent comics. (10/16)

Byrd, Sam HURRY HOME TO MY HEART Houghton, Mifflin $2.00

A love story of teen agers in World War II - a delightful ingenue and a jive-happy sailor - and how they grew up, she at home, in a small North Carolina town, and he on the Normandy beaches. The book has the freshness, the vitality and emotion of the bobby-soxers, the impact of violent death on a growing boy, the frustrations of a returning boy hero. Sincere-genuine-imaginative. (For full report see P. 406) (11/1)

Gleit, Maria KATRINA Scribner $2.50

I loved *Pierre Keeps Watch* - and I'm frankly disappointed in *Katrina*. It seems a solemn, troubled story, with the author attempting to water down complex adult problems to adolescent levels. The setting is unusual - the Duchy of Luxembourg during

the Nazi occupation. Jolly, naive Katrina tries to extend her warm-hearted tolerance to the Nazi conquerors and is disturbed by their brutal amorality. She eventually achieves spiritual maturity when she joins the fight for liberation. Slow action - too introspective. (Oct.)

NON-FICTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Miller, Margery — JOE LOUIS — Current Books $2.00

A sincere, sympathetic biography of the famous champion boxer, whose integrity, humility and kindness have made him more of a person than simply a Negro champion. The author takes us behind his dead-pan face to reveal the strain of greatness which put him at the top, despite lowly birth and lack of education. The author - a fight fan since childhood, and a recent graduate of Wellesley, is now doing sports reporting for a New England paper. She writes well and knows her stuff. (For full report, see P. 411) (10/31)

Lutz, Alma *Ed.* — WITH LOVE, JANE — John Day $2.00

Collection of letters of women in service - the nurse, the Wac, the Red Cross girl in every theatre of war. Ordinary American girls a few short weeks before - gallant fighting women who have followed wherever men have gone. The fears, the loneliness, the drudgery, terrifying dangers, primitive living conditions, the sense of mission, the unglamorous lot that has been theirs, and their contribution to the cause. (Full report P.411) (10/31)

Hough, Capt. Donald & Arnold, Capt. Elliott — BIG DISTANCE — Duell, Sloan & Pearce $3.00

Battle report of the Army Air force in the Pacific - the grueling battle back to victory, starting with the makeshifts of the early defeats, ending with victory in sight and Leyte ours again. A sober record in terms of men and machines - a miracle of achievement. Air men and ground crews - adventure - men against odds. (Full report P. 408) (10/25)

Corbett, Jim — MAN-EATERS OF KUMAON — Oxford $2.00

Something different in hunting adventures - true account of the famous hunter's experiences with man-eating tigers in the jungles of India. Hair breadth escapes recounted with calm detachment. Good armchair adventure. (Full report P. 411) ~~(Oct.)~~ pp -

Follett, Helen — MEN OF THE SULU SEA — Scribner $2.50

The Moros have played a vital part in the war, and this book is packed with important material on the brave fighters of the Sulu Sea. One could wish that the author had let their achievements speak for themselves, instead of making the pirates sound like rebellious boy scouts. And her excellent background material loses dramatic value by her rather ponderous style and slow sense of pace. Illustratedb with photographs. (Oct.)

Gronowicz, Antoni — THE PIASTS OF POLAND — Scribner $2.50

* A satisfying book on Poland, its origin and history and the struggles of its people towards independence. The author has a decidedly liberal slant, but manages to make the book pro-Polish and yet not anti-Soviet. Lively modern reading, good historical background, with legends, culture and traditions briefly but succinctly handled. A much needed book for reference shelves as well as current history reading. (Oct.)